

*Rock*

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

MAY 23 1960

LIBRARY SCIENCE  
LIBRARY

# THE ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE A.A.L.

The Ulster Division	-	-	-	87
The right to vote	-	-	-	87
Conference report	-	-	-	88
Essential textbooks	-	-	-	90
Public, can you spare a dime ?	-	-	-	92
The A.L.A.	-	-	-	94
Talking points	-	-	-	97
Mobile on location	-	-	-	99
Council notes	-	-	-	101
Reviews	-	-	-	103

VOLUME 53

MAY  
1960

NUMBER 5

**CEDRIC CHIVERS LTD.**

## PORTWAY, BATH

## BOOKBINDERS AND BOOKSELLERS

## TELEGRAMS

**"DUROFLEX," BATH**

**TELEPHONE**  
**7355, BATH**



**G. BLUNT & SONS LTD.**

**Established 1879**

## LIBRARY BOOKBINDERS AND BOOKSELLERS

**EUROPEAN AGENTS FOR RANGANATHAN AND  
VISWANATHAN LIBRARY TEXTBOOKS**

Showroom :  
100 GREAT RUSSELL STREET, LONDON, W.C.1.

Telephone: MUSEUM 5650 and 0335

Head Office and Works :  
NORTH ACTON ROAD, HARLESDEN, LONDON N.W.10

Telephone: ELGAR 7411-2-3

# LIBRACO

are the makers of  
**LIBRARY  
FURNITURE  
and  
EQUIPMENT**

**It is the best in  
DESIGN  
QUALITY  
WORKMANSHIP  
and FINISH**

*It is used all over the world  
and  
gives a lifetime of service*

**Illustrated lists, designs, and estimates free from  
Lombard Wall, Woolwich Road  
CHARLTON, S.E.7**

**Telephone: GREENWICH 3308/9**

# THE WOOLSTON BOOK CO., LTD.

---

SOLE AGENTS FOR  
THE AMERICAN LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION

•

DEWEY DECIMAL  
CLASSIFICATION

16th Edition - £12 net  
2 vols. the set

•

*We extend a cordial invitation to all  
librarians to visit our  
New Showrooms at  
200, GT. PORTLAND STREET  
LONDON, W.1*

---

THE WOOLSTON BOOK CO., LTD.  
GAMBLE STREET, NOTTINGHAM

# THE ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

Official Journal of the Association of Assistant Librarians

(Section of the Library Association)

EDITOR: D. HARRISON

Central Library, Manchester 2

VOL. 53. NO. 5

MAY, 1960

## The Ulster Division

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the Ulster Division of the Association of Assistant Librarians, which will be inaugurated in Belfast on 17th May. The Council has always realised that members in areas not covered by Divisions miss much of the encouragement and help which a really active Division can give, and the emergence of two new Divisions within such a very short time has given considerable satisfaction to the Council.

The initiative for such a development must be provided locally, and though the spark may be provided by a single individual there must be a nucleus of enthusiastic members who will ensure that it does not die out.

It is good to know that such a nucleus exists in Northern Ireland, and on behalf of the Association I wish every success to the new Division.

ARTHUR C. JONES, *President.*

## The right to vote

It has for some time been the view of the A.A.L. Council that the right to vote in the Library Association (elections, annual general meetings, postal votes, etc.) should be confined to members who have passed or been exempted from the First Professional Examination, thus excluding both Institutional members and the least experienced personal members, though the latter would of course retain their full rights in the A.A.L.

The Library Association Council discussed this same matter at its meeting on 1st April, and concluded that it was desirable that the right to vote within the Association should in the main be restricted to Chartered Librarians, but that an extension should be made to include other members with a certain minimum number of years' service as librarians.

This proposal will now be the subject of discussion with all bodies affected, including the A.A.L., and it will be thoroughly examined at the May meeting of the A.A.L. Council.

There are obvious advantages to the Library Association in increasing the authority of its annual general meeting in the manner suggested, though the removal of so many interested but as yet unqualified members from participation in L.A. affairs will cause concern. One thing at least can be made clear; no anti-A.A.L. feeling need be read into the proposal, although as one member of the executive committee said, it calls for considerable sacrifice by the A.A.L. and its members. Whether it is a sacrifice which we are prepared to make, we shall have the opportunity of deciding in due course.

The whole structure of the Library Association is currently under review, together with a new examination syllabus which could result in

the abolition of the First Professional Examination, thus necessitating some change in the A.A.L. view stated above. Clearly the various aspects of this vast reorganisation must be related one to another when the best course for the future of the L.A. and the A.A.L. is considered.

A. C. JONES.

## *Keeping up with the Joneses*

*Editorial notes on the A.A.L. Conference, Bangor, April, 1960*

The Bangor Conference deserves the fullest possible report, so, to spare our readers an over-lengthy monologue, we have asked the three conference leaders, Peter New, Kenneth McColvin and Frank Hogg, to report individually on the three aspects of "The Reading Habit"—respectively, Reading for Leisure, for Information, and for Education. The present account is therefore intended as a general note on the proceedings; the June *Assistant Librarian* will include a closer evaluation of the conference theme by the three participants who have studied the problems involved most closely. In addition it is proposed to reproduce either in the June issue or as a separate item the complete text of an outstanding paper by Mr. I. Leng, Lecturer in Education at the University College of North Wales, which was delivered as an introductory talk to the conference sessions.

It proved an admirable starting point, exploring the motives which lead people to read and deducing that they read to fill a need. This, said Mr. Leng, is the need to integrate ourselves with aspects of life for which our own narrow experiences fail to equip us, and therefore reading should be judged not by the immediate pleasure it gives, but by the ultimate results it achieves. Literacy is now universal; the task of the librarian is to get beyond the mere supplying of demand, and to direct leisure, as well as other kinds, of reading to the right social ends.

Having asked the three conference leaders to summarise their own sessions, we can safely leave the subject matter to them and confine ourselves to impressions. Peter New's group "Reading for Leisure" was perhaps the one in which assistants found they could most easily make a contribution; we all knew, or thought we knew, what to think of escapist reading (all right, as one young lady said, if you can return when you have finished escaping), of Enid Blyton, of the effect of newspapers and television on our standards. Could librarians do anything to improve those standards? Some thought we could, others thought we couldn't.

"Reading for Information" was a more difficult theme, and Kenneth McColvin worked hard and successfully to get our minds working on the problem of the information-seeker and the ways in which we could help him, by promoting the habit of reading for information, by publicising our resources in this field and by seeing that they were worth publicising. Under "Reading for Education" with Frank Hogg as leader, we ranged from the duty of the teacher-librarian and the place of the children's section in the public library to textbook provision, the necessary standard of bookstocks for lending libraries, and, inevitably, to subject specialisation.

All those who have visited an A.A.L. Conference will know that this is not the whole story. Besides the stimulation provided by the conference theme, there is the stimulation provided by the contact with other librarians outside the sessions. First and foremost here we must mention

our contact with the librarians of the Division which acted as host. The North Wales Division (Chairman: W. Wynn Jones) is by far our smallest with 47 members at 31st December, 1959 (though the new Northern Ireland Division may be similar in size), but by no means the least lively, in spite of travelling difficulties in what is a large, sparsely populated area. *Cambria*, bilingual magazine of the North Wales Division, had been revived for the occasion, and No. 1 of the new series has an article on the Division, including the information that the average attendance at meetings is 33½ per cent. of the membership.

The arrangements made by this small but thriving division were excellent from the moment they collected our bags from the station on the Friday to the moment they reversed the procedure on the Sunday. The University Hall of Residence (*Neuadd Reichel*) was admirable in situation, comfort and cuisine, and arrangements were even made for the legal consumption of liquid refreshment. The Libraries of Bangor (Librarian: W. J. Jones) and the University College of North Wales (Librarian: E. Gwynne Jones) were open for our inspection, and if comparatively few took advantage of this facility, we must plead the great variety of other amenities which pulled us in various directions.

The coach tours to Conway and Carnarvon formed a very pleasant part of the week-end with members of the Division acting as guides. Unfortunately they could not organise the weather as well as the rest of the proceedings, and Conway and Carnarvon Castles were inspected in drizzle. Snowdon was hidden in mist, but Tryfan and the Glyders were just visible as the weather improved on the homeward run, and the beauty of the passes and valleys was unimpaired.

In the evenings there was informal dancing for those who could and would, and one of the highlights of the Conference was the *Noson Lawen*. *Noson Lawen* means "Merry Night," and is a traditional form of Welsh musical entertainment in which either member of the company performs. Fortunately this *Noson Lawen* was organised, and none of the librarians attending was called upon to do his piece except that the City Librarian of Bangor (W. J. Jones) not only acted as compère, but also provided one of the highlights of the week-end when he joined the baritone of the company in the "Beaux Gendarmes." More specifically native were the harp playing and the singing in Welsh which those who were there will long remember.

Finally there were those items which nobody arranged, but which just happened. There was plenty of scope for walking, and for motoring by those who had arrived by Bentley, etc. New friends were made and old friendships revived in informal gatherings which occurred at all times, but principally well into the night. Some were serious and the world of librarianship was set to rights many times over. Others were less ambitious and merely righted their own little worlds for an hour or two. At least one group had a *Noson Lawen* of its own, complete with guitar music by Tony Shearman, and though the chorus work was hardly up to his standard, it is reported that they lulled many a weary assistant to sleep.

Altogether there was the usual mixture of work and play, gravity and levity, effort and relaxation, which is typical of our conferences. Few of the 90 assistants who were there could have gone away without a renewed interest in their job, few without having made new friends, and without an enhanced opinion of their fellow professionals. We hope sincerely that the fires which were lit will continue to glow, despite the sometimes dampening effect of routine librarianship.

## DO YOU HAVE THESE BOOKS IN YOUR LIBRARY ?

The list given below has been circulated by the A.A.L. to all chief librarians in order that they may check their stocks of professional textbooks and make good their deficiencies. We have been asked to do this by a Library Association Moderating Committee because examiners have detected serious gaps in book provision in certain areas. It is hoped that this checklist may help to remedy such shortages, and from time to time we shall publish further lists of recent books that we think should be in all library systems.

Books on the history of English literature have not been included, on the grounds that students will have access to the general stocks in public libraries.

### ALL SUBJECTS.

Corbett, E. V.: *The First professional examination*. (A.A.L. Guides), 2s. 6d.

Corbett, E. V.: *Introduction to public librarianship*, 2nd ed. 1952. O.P. *The registration examination*. (A.A.L. Guides). O.P. Reprint Summer 1960.

Walford, A. J.: *A general introduction to the examinations and methods of study*. (A.A.L. Guides), 3s. 9d.

### CLASSIFICATION.

Mann, M.: *Introduction to cataloguing and classification of books*, 2nd ed. 1943. A.L.A. \$3.25. (Also needed for Cataloguing.)

Phillips, W. H.: *Primer of book classification*, 1955. A.A.L. 8s.

Sayers, W. C. B.: *Manual of classification*, 3rd ed. rev. 1959. Grafton, 42s.

Wells, A. J. and Palmer, B. I.: *Fundamentals of library classification* 1952. Allen & Unwin, 8s. 6d.

### CATALOGUING.

American Library Association: *A.L.A. cataloguing rules for author and title entries*, 2nd ed 1949. Chicago, A.L.A., \$5.

American Library Association: *A.L.A. rules for filing catalog cards*, 1942. Chicago, A.L.A., \$2.

British Museum: *Rules for compiling the catalogues of printed books*. Rev. ed., 1936, 3s. 3d.

Collison, R. L.: *The treatment of special material in libraries*, 1955. (Aslib Manuals, Vol. 2). 12s. 6d.

Cutter, C. A.: *Rules for a dictionary catalog*. 4th ed., 1904. L.A., 5s. 6d.

Library Association and American Library Association: *Cataloguing rules: author and title entries*. 1908. L.A., 5s. 6d.

Norris, D.: *Primer of cataloguing*. 1955. A.A.L., 7s. 6d.

Sears, M. E.: *List of subject headings*. 8th ed. 1959. New York, H. W. Wilson.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY AND DOCUMENTARY REPRODUCTION.

Aldis, H. G.: *The printed book*. 3rd ed. C.U.P., 12s. 6d.

Jennett, S.: *The making of books*. 2nd ed., 1956. Faber, 52s. 6d.

Mallaber, K. A.: *Primer of bibliography*. 1959. A.A.L., 10s.

Mason, D.: *A primer of non-book materials in libraries*. 1958. A.A.L., 15s. (Also needed for Assistance to Readers.)



Willoughby, E. E.: *The uses of bibliography . . .*, 1957. Shoestring P. through Bailey Bros., 30s.

#### ASSISTANCE TO READERS.

Collison, R. L.: *Library assistance to readers*. 2nd ed., 1956. C. Lockwood, 13s. 6d.

Cook, M. G.: *The new library key*, 1956. H. W. Wilson Co. through Holmes of Glasgow, 7s. 6d.

Foskett, D. J.: *Assistance to readers in lending libraries*. 1952. Clarke, 12s. 6d.

Foskett, D. J.: *Information service in libraries*. 1958. C. Lockwood, 13s. 6d.

Roberts, A. D.: *Introduction to reference books*. 3rd ed, 1956. L.A., 12s. 6d. (O.P. New edition expected 1960.)

Walford, A. J., and Payne, L. M., eds.: *Guide to reference material*. 1959. L.A., £3.

#### ADMINISTRATION.

Ashworth, W., ed.: *Handbook of special librarianship*. 1955. Aslib., 50s.

Boas, M., ed.: *A living library*. 1957. Calif. U.P.

Caldwell, W.: *Introduction to county library practice*. 1956. A.A.L. 3s. 9d.

Hewitt, A. R.: *Summary of public library law*. 1955. A.A.L., 5s. 6d.

Lamb, J. P.: *Commercial and technical libraries*. 1955. Allen & Unwin. 21s. 6d.

Ministry of Education: *Structure of the public library service* (Roberts Committee Report). 1959. H.M.S.O. 3s. 6d.

Munford, W. A.: *Penny rate*. 1951. L.A. 16s.

Murison, W. J.: *The public library*. 1955. Harrap, 10s. 6d.

Vollans, R. F.: *Library co-operation in Great Britain*.

#### LITERATURE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

Bernal, J. D.: *Science in history*. 1954. Watts, 42s.

Mason, S. F.: *History of the sciences*. 1953. Routledge, 31s. 6d.

Thornton, J. L., and Tully, R. J.: *Scientific books, libraries and collectors*. 1954. L.A., 18s. 6d.

#### LITERATURE OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL IDEAS.

Bowle, John: *Western political thought*. 1947. Cape, 25s.

Gettell, R. G.: *History of political thought*. 2nd ed. 1956. Allen & Unwin, 30s.

Sabine, G. H.: *History of political theory*. 1937. Harrap, 25s.

#### A.A.L. EVENTS.

May 4th—Chaucer House. A.A.L. Annual General Meeting and Presidential Address (see April "Assistant Librarian" for details).

May 5th—Chaucer House. A.A.L. Council and Committees.

May 14th-15th—Skegness. East Midland Division A.A.L., Annual Weekend Conference. Inclusive charge £2 2s. Visitors from other Divisions welcome. Other details from R. F. Smith, F.L.A., Lindsey and Holland County Library, Fairfield House, Newland, Lincoln. (See also, Talking Points, page 98).

## Public, can you spare a dime ?

By J. Malcolm Allan, Wigan Public Libraries

In the Spring the author's fancy now seems to turn to thoughts of money. Since February, correspondence has been appearing in *The Guardian* concerning the meagre earnings of novelists, and the fact that public lending libraries seem to make no contribution to their income, even decreasing it by issuing books free to the public rather than leaving them to buy their own reading material.

As was to be expected Brophy's penny turned up like the proverbial bad one, but has now been followed by a more interesting scheme envisaged by Sir Alan Herbert. In a memorandum he takes up the idea and has produced a draft bill for a Public Lending Right. The thought of public money providing free books for the people produces a green glint in an author's eyes and evokes the plea that they cannot afford to supply these books without a fair reward. The publishers are hardly likely to agree to increase the percentage they grant to authors or to take up their case for them along with the existing tussles over the Net Book Agreement. The resulting draft bill suggests a fund of government money to be administered through the Minister of Education whereby authors and publishers would be recompensed by a prearranged percentage.

To assess an amount, the basis of statistics relating to those who read the books has been used, and four alternative schemes suggested: (a) an amount based on 6½ per cent. of the total expenditure of a library authority; (b) 6d. per head of the population served by a library; (c) ¼ the amount spent on books and binding in a year; or (d) ¼ of a penny for each book issued, except on those books which are public domain. The allocation of this amount, which is estimated at £1,000,000, is to be based on returns by each library stating in detail the books withdrawn and acquired during the year.

In the preamble to the memorandum great stress is laid upon the educational value of books, but it would seem that those who would benefit most would be the popular novelists and those already established and earning a substantial amount by their writing. It looks like the law of "to him that hath shall be given" applied through a government department. The idea of a direct levy on the readers has been carefully avoided to keep within the laws of lending free of charge. The scheme appears to favour both publisher and author, and like the H.P. agreement, to gloss the pill with indirect and vague terms.

Correspondence following these proposals has been lively and not always to the point. *The Times*, *The Guardian*, and *The Bookseller* have opened the field to comment, and in the main the opinions have been in sympathy with the authors, but not directly in favour of the schemes. The distinction has been drawn by the Hon. Secretary of the L.A. between the purpose of production of the book and that of music or the plays covered by the Performing Right Act of 1914. It is argued that there is no unwritten rule of equity, one book for one reader, and therefore no justification for seeking compensation from reader, local authority or state. The publisher, obviously unwilling to decrease his own profit by increasing the percentage to the author, is in favour of the scheme, but confuses the aspects of social service embodied in a Welfare State and those of public service as offered by the library services. Few librarians would grudge the author trying to increase his income, but few would

support any scheme which might have adverse effects upon their own professional service either by direct or indirect means. The interdependence of author and librarian is recognised, since the library builds up a reading habit and also is an assured market for new writers of merit besides the established writers. The working of a scheme would be difficult and an impossible amount of paper work would make it uneconomical. The statistical returns of the libraries would have to be detailed and accurate; the culmination of such information would be a colossal job; and the arithmetic fantastically complicated. The way of sharing out the sum and the basis on which it would be decided would be a thorny problem indeed and not satisfy all the authors or all the publishers.

The amount worked out by any of the schemes a, b, c or d would have to be apportioned by a committee or board (which if it came under the Ministry of Education would hardly be voluntary), drawn from the Society of Authors who support Sir Alan's draft bill, and representatives from the publishers and perhaps the Library Association. It is difficult to imagine that those authors who are most in need of financial support, i.e. those struggling to make their name or to produce a work of limited appeal, would benefit according to the intention of the scheme.

The libraries are presented as the boxey-men taking the bread out of the mouths of the author and the publisher. It would perhaps be easier to support the literary arts if first the library services were supported in their claim for government interest. The fact that in Scandinavian countries the authors have an income based on the loan of their books through the public libraries is made easier by the state interest in the finances *and standards* of the library service. The paucity of population reflects upon the number of books which would be bought and necessitates some state aid to the literary arts. Administration of such schemes is easier through existing state departments and the fact that the project is on a smaller scale.

Who in this country would like to have the problem of dividing a supposed £1,000,000 among authors and publishers producing 20,000 titles a year; selecting from an issue of 400 million; assessing returns from several thousand library service points; all to satisfy a membership of the Public Lending Right Association?

Buddy, can you spare a thought!?

## CRAMER'S

*for* MUSIC

MUSICAL LITERATURE  
AND MUSIC BINDING

139, New Bond Street  
London, W.1

★ Complete Music Service Provided

## RISEN Generations

What better proof of KEESING'S lasting value towards responsible citizenship can anyone wish for, than the many spontaneous messages from people established in all walks of life, all stating how much they owe to the availability of KEESING'S in Public Libraries (*of which 612, in Britain alone, are now equipped with KEESING'S*).

# **The A.L.A.—Its Retention and Cost**

## **by Philip C. Clements**

**St. Albans College of Further Education**

This article is a continuation of "The A.L.A.—Its Attainment and Value" (January *Assistant Librarian*), and the second of three articles on the A.L.A. Since the publication of the original article, comments by colleagues have been received, and these have been amalgamated with added comments and ideas of my own. This series of articles therefore includes much that has already been expressed in the profession; its intentions being: (1) to collect and summarise the points that have already been made, but which are so widely scattered throughout professional literature; (2) to examine the A.L.A. and its status as a professional qualification; and (3) to make recommendations and suggestions for the improvement of its status.

Since the formation of the Library Association in 1877, one of its most important functions has been to act as an examiner for its members and to confer upon them qualifications resulting from these examinations; in the words of its Royal Charter, "to hold examinations in Librarianship and to issue certificates of efficiency." Through several changes and over a period of many years, the Registration examination has been evolved which is the basis for the award of the Association's Associateship. The L.A., however, is not satisfied with the examination alone, and has inflicted upon its members certain additional requirements to be fulfilled before admitting them to its professional charter as Associates. The most significant of these are the minimum period of practical experience of three years, and the minimum age requirement of twenty-three years.

The first of these is as effective in its result as is possible under present circumstances, and should be retained, as the possession of the A.L.A. carries with it something more than does the possession of an academic degree. It confirms that the Associate member is a person thoroughly practised in his art, and this must always be the main difference between an academic and a professional qualification. Although it is not suggested that a period of three years necessarily produces such a librarian, it does at least provide a firm basis for the future development of his career.

The second requirement, however, is simply fatuous, otiose and nothing more than a vestige of Victorian England, when our venerated forebears considered that responsibility should only accompany age, implying in this case that anyone below the age of 23 is not worthy of the responsibility which professional status presumably entails; and professional status is what the A.L.A. represents. This irritating imposition would seem to imply a metamorphosis from a course of training to one of motor racing, in which the age limitation is but the chequered flag introduced by the organisers of the race as a guide to the competitors, informing them that the winning post should not be far ahead.

The absurdity and entire paradox of this situation is seen in advertisements for senior posts in libraries, which require not the A.L.A. as such, but the completion of the Registration examination. It would therefore seem that while the L.A. itself remains adamant in its convictions and faithful to its principles, many parts of the profession realise

that a librarian who has completed the examination requirement while under 23 is not necessarily professionally immature or irresponsible. More chartered librarians are needed *now*, therefore the L.A.s principles should be revised and the age limitation abolished.

The L.A. is also intransigent about the member's retention of the A.L.A. in its ruling that if a member's subscription to the Association lapses for any reason, the A.L.A. will be immediately withdrawn from him. It seems both severe and morally wrong, that a person who through his own efforts has attained a qualification, should be liable to lose it if he decides to terminate his membership of the L.A. Obviously it would not be in the interests of a *practising* librarian to do this, so that in fact this would only affect those who leave the profession entirely or for a short period. In the latter case, the enforced arrears in subscription necessary for the renewal of the A.L.A. must often discourage such a person from re-entering the profession. The A.L.A. has already been paid for in examination fees and should on no account be taken away. This state of affairs is bound to remain for as long as the L.A. considers its examining rights and its subsequent award of the A.L.A. as an inherent part of its functions.

The L.A. has on the whole adequately and worthily fulfilled these functions, but nevertheless the A.L.A. and the F.L.A. will not be fully recognised until they are awarded by an *academic* institution. The L.A. however should not surrender these rights until the existing facilities for students are radically changed. Ideally all students should attend a school of librarianship attached to a university, as in the U.S.A., which would confer degrees in librarianship equivalent in status to academic degrees. Alternatively the best of the resources of the present library schools should be amalgamated to form a maximum of three schools for the U.K.: one in London, one in the Midlands, and one in the North.

## WOODFIELD & STANLEY

LIMITED

SPECIALISTS IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

BROOKFIELD MILLS, KIRKBURTON, HUDDERSFIELD

AND

THE CHILDREN'S BOOKSHOP

64, GREAT RUSSELL STREET, LONDON, W.C.1

which themselves would award professional qualifications. To ensure consistency between the qualifications, the L.A. would be represented on the governing boards of these schools.

At the present time, however, the examining body is not an academic institution as such, and what is immediately more important, it is little known by the all-important public; those who evaluate professions and who, by knowledge and observation, subconsciously divide them from occupations and jobs. It is hoped that the part-time Public Relations Advisor may help in this way, although it is queried incidentally if the conservative council-in-control at Chaucer House considered it too great a step to appoint a full-time Public Relations Officer. Meanwhile what has happened to the Royal Charter? The L.A. should be proud of this, and should make it known to the public that the profession has been so honoured. If the Charter could be amended to rename the L.A. the "Royal Association of Librarians," the Association would at once be equated by the public (as it deserves to be) with other professional associations of equal standing, but at present far better known and respected. In turn the A.L.A. would become the A.R.A.L., and if worthy of its revised nomenclature, it would increase its status in the eyes of the entire profession, of library authorities and of that same public, who, if we ourselves are not, are continuously counting the cost which indirectly determines the future of our profession.

### **A.L.A. and F.L.A.—another view**

*This correspondence arises from Mr. Clements' previous article, "The A.L.A.—its Attainment and Value."*

It is difficult to accept Mr Hepworth's statement in the March issue of the *Assistant Librarian* that he is not denigrating the standing of the Associateship.

He asserts that "The present A.L.A. is only an intermediate stage and should not be looked upon as meaning more than it really does."

What then does it really mean? Most of us will accept the definition given in the Library Association year book:—" [The Registration Examination] is the general professional examination." The Year book goes on to state that successful candidates who fulfil the age, language and service requirements are thereby eligible for registration as *Chartered Librarians*.

Baldly expressed, the Associateship confers full professional status on its holders whether they proceed to Finals or not. Both Associate and Fellow are Chartered Librarians, although the Fellowship is rightly demanded of those who aspire to the higher grades in the profession.

Writing as one about to commence studies at Finals level, I share Mr. Hepworth's sentiments on the overall need for greater depth and maturity; qualities, one hopes, engendered by preparation for this examination. But I deplore his inference that the mere Associate who for some reason avoids Finals is "not a Librarian proper."

This attitude does a disservice to the profession as a whole. Mr. Haslam in his article, "The fighting fifties" (*Library Association Record*, January, 1960), reveals that the L.A. has fought hard and successfully to establish the full professional status of the A.L.A. But if our own members hold it in such small regard, how can we expect others to respect it?

Much confusion, of course, is due to the almost unique structure and nomenclature of our examination system. Conversation with members of other professions shows that they find difficulty in comprehending how our Associates claim to be fully qualified, yet on their own admission they may be taking their Finals exam!

It may be that the proposed new syllabus will do away with a formal examination for the Fellowship and confer it as an award for outstanding work or original research. This would bring our examination structure into line with those of other professional institutions; at the same time it would afford a truer measure of maturity and capacity for original thinking than the present Finals examination.

Meanwhile I would suggest that consideration be given to changing the name of the existing examination from that of Finals to "The Fellowship Examination!" This would in no way detract from its high standing, yet would remove bewilderment outside the profession and help to establish the correct perspective desired by Mr. Hepworth.

JULIAN M. ISAACS, *Aldershot Public Library.*

## Talking Points

**Librarians** and especially public librarians, had cause last year to be grateful to many non-librarian members of NALGO for the support they gave us in our pay claims. To keep our colleagues in other local government departments alive to our problems is a worth-while task, and three recent articles by Philip S. Pargeter in *Camera Principis*, Magazine of the Coventry Branch of NALGO, deserves our thanks. His first article, "A.P.T. II Just for Stamping Books," gave a little insight into some aspects of librarianship, his second surveyed the present salary position, and his third, looking to the future, told members of Coventry NALGO of his belief in professional duties for professional librarians, inspection of libraries on a nation-wide basis, salary scales comparable to teachers, and effective union action. Perhaps others could give our profession a little publicity along these lines instead of just waiting for the improvement in conditions which they consider their due. And incidentally, while expecting our non-librarian colleagues to take an interest in us, don't forget to reciprocate. Who ever heard of a librarian speaking in favour of higher salaries for anybody else?

**Readership Surveys** keep cropping up, and Plymouth Public Libraries are the latest to report their results, an account of which is given in *Outpost* (Devon and Cornwall Division magazine) for January, 1960. Meanwhile, Associated Rediffusion, the London T.V. contractors, have explored another angle of passing interest to librarians. They asked 1,000 people to name two well-known writers. Agatha Christie topped the poll, thought of by 14 people in 100, and was followed by Shute, Blyton, Maugham, Charles Dickens, and Priestley and Edgar Wallace in that order. When compared with artists in other fields Somerset Maugham came off quite well; his name was recognised by 82 people out of 100; Bruce Forsyth only just beat him and even Tommy Steele only got 99!

The recent reading survey of the Young Publisher's Association is printed in full in the Jan./Feb. issue of the National Book League Journal, *Books*, besides being summarised in the *Bookseller* as we reported in March. A



paragraph of the full report which claims the attention is "Attitude to Libraries," where we learn that 33 per cent. of borrowers reserve the book they want if it is out, 38 per cent. do so "sometimes," and 29 per cent. never do. Unfortunately there is no report as to why they don't. Lack of vital interest in the book? Lack of faith in the system? Lack of the necessary 3d.?

We also learn that of eight reasons for *not* using Public Libraries, the one that "recent books are difficult to get" was the most popular, followed by "not enough time to read books," "difficulty in getting the particular book you want," and "the books are dirty," in that order. The difficulty of obtaining recent books is an incurable disease, but the last two troubles are capable of treatment where diagnosed. Less response was provoked by the suggestions that "people do not know where libraries are," "books are badly arranged," "catalogues difficult to use" or "assistants unhelpful."

**Librarians eagerly await the projected A.A.L. publication on library buildings.** Members attending the **East Midland Division** week-end school at Skegness will have a chance of hearing its author, Anthony Thompson, speak on this subject. The theme of the conference is "Tools of our Trade: Staff, Stock and Buildings"; Godfrey Thompson, Manchester's Deputy City Librarian will be handling the "staff" side; and J. H. Haiste, Borough Librarian of Rugby, will speak on "stock" (see A.A.L. Events, page 91).

**Our remark in Talking Points in March**, that an L.A. Conference in Belfast would disenfranchise most of the rank and file of the profession, had that recently adopted Ulsterman, Donald Davinson, reaching for his shillelagh and proving that for certain parts of Great Britain, Belfast is cheaper and easier of access than Torquay, scene of last year's conference. We agree that from parts of the North and West, particularly those like Newcastle with an air terminal, this seems to apply (though on the merits of second-class boat travel without cabin from Manchester to Belfast we have some misgivings). None the less the *majority* of the librarians in the United Kingdom would find it easier to get to Torquay (and, of course, Torquay is about the *worst* southern conference site from a northerner's point of view). Our Talking Point stressed that our concern was to keep the *Annual General Meeting* easily accessible to as many members as possible; on this score we are little happier with Torquay than Belfast. If the Conference and A.G.M. were divorced (wouldn't Chaucer House be the obvious place for the majority of A.G.M.s?) there would be no objection to far-flung Conferences.

**The Kent Division** of the Association of Assistant Librarians is operating an **International Library Pen-Pal Service**. The primary objects of this scheme are: (1) To foster an interest among librarians *and especially the younger assistant* in librarianship as it is carried out in countries overseas; (2) To present an opportunity for the exchange of ideas and views on the purposes and methods of libraries in different countries; (3) To create social contacts by correspondence which may in time lead to an exchange of visits abroad.

There are a few overseas pen friends not yet accommodated by the Kent Division. Interested members in other Divisions are invited to contact the **Hon. Education Secretary, A.A.L. (Kent Division), Central Library, Central Park, Dartford, Kent.**



# Mobile on Location

by Sally Jenkins, Herts County Library

One fine morning, Mobile East, groomed for stardom, rolled up to the village of Benington prepared to make film history in an epic of the screen to be known as "I am a Mobile Librarian." The film unit was there already, but appeared to be in a trance in the middle of the green. There were four of them; the Director, who wrote the script and always had the final word; the Producer, who produced whatever the Director demanded and had a genius for conjuring delicious lunches out of thin air; the Cameraman, who needed to be a contortionist to get his eye behind the viewfinder in some of the interior shots; and the Assistant, who did everything from standing on the van roof with a reflector to climbing through a cottage window to connect spotlight cables with the local electricity. Finally the film team finished meditating on light, angles and continuity, and filming began with a scene where the van drew up and "Shirley," the "library lady," opened the doors and greeted an elderly couple waiting by the roadside. Now this simple action is performed many thousands of times by mobile librarians, and they hardly ever fall flat on their noses or swing helplessly from the door handles, but it is an extraordinarily difficult feat to perform with a camera mercilessly recording the proceedings and instructions like "Lean out into the sun." "Don't look this way," and "Speed up the action a bit" to attend to. By the end of the week Shirley had developed a new set of muscles and a beaming smile of recognition for complete strangers (this embarrassment took some time to wear off).

Filming was done in short bursts, regardless of sequence in the script; and all the exterior shots came first in case the fine weather changed. The Producer dashed up and down the road collecting a wonderful variety of people to act as readers. Up to the van they came, old and young, in overalls and aprons, on bicycles, on horseback, with prams, dragging dogs and children, all clutching the books hastily thrust at them as the Producer shouted instructions:—"You first—now you two—talk together—come on, mother—very good indeed! Now, once again—" Happily they abandoned thoughts of home, shopping and cooking to do it all again for the sixth time. Everybody was on Christian-name terms within two minutes, and during the long pauses while the film unit went into conference outside there was quite a social atmosphere inside the van, with non-readers vowing to join forthwith. (They didn't, so presumably the propaganda value was negligible). After this burst of activity the "extras" were allowed to go, but asked to return the next day with the same clothes, baskets, babies, etc. The film unit and mobile crew sank exhausted into deck chairs on the lawn of a neighbouring house and tackled the lunch miraculously produced by the Producer.

Then came a period of shunting the van up and down the village so that it could be photographed coming and going. Close-ups were taken of "Harry" the driver, driving with the care and concentration befitting a C.L. driver while the van was actually standing still. A difficult task nobly performed with the camera about sixteen inches away from his face.

Next day the extras were rounded up and photographed leaving the van with happy smiles and armloads of books. They behaved with great

naturalness, particularly the older people, some of whom were unaccustomed to handling books. ("Dad likes 'is paper and I 'as me knitting.")

There followed a mystery tour through the Herts countryside, with Mobile East panting after the two film unit cars as they raced through the lanes to previously selected rural scenes, the purpose of the exercise being to show the library van functioning in as many and varied circumstances as possible. So the van bowled across rolling uplands, toiled up steep hills, splashed through fords, rocketed down cart tracks and frolicked through woods. Service for all and no place too remote . . . Westmill provided olde worlde shots and Tewin some speciality readers such as "student" (long-haired milk-boy enticed away from his float), and "music lover" (kind lady from the pub who understood the film world's love of coffee). Mobile East made dignified progress from place to place, dodging police and traffic in the middle of Hatfield as it manoeuvred for the benefit of the camera, filming from the top of the church tower, and turning on its tail in a farm-yard where a new-born calf made a well-timed entrance on to the stage.

Another day or so was devoted to interior shots, and the actors in this breathless drama of rural life soon became so used to being surrounded by half-a-dozen spotlights, reflectors, and the camera all within a few feet, that to discharge a book without all this paraphernalia seemed hardly worth doing. There were close-ups of readers being shown the arrangement of books, collecting their requests, and even being hauled up the steps. A toddler was cajoled into sitting on the wheel-cover with a picture book, and an old lady of ninety, hitherto known only by her postcards to Authority demanding speedy action in the matter of requests, tottered on board to investigate this latest library foolery. One of the regular tea-ladies not only traipsed to and fro with cups of vinegar-and-water for film purposes, but produced real tea and cakes for elevenses.

## ASKEWS OF PRESTON

KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE  
BRITISH ISLES FOR  
EFFICIENCY, SERVICE  
AND COURTESY

ESTABLISHED OVER  
75 YEARS

JAMES ASKEW AND SON, LTD.  
CORPORATION STREET  
PRESTON



The filming took a week and was much enjoyed by one and all. A commentary, supposedly spoken by "Shirley," is to be added when the film is cut up and stuck together again. Incidentally only about a sixth of the film will be used in the final edition.

And when may you see this colossal Technicycloramic Masterpiece at the local Odeon? Never, we hope. It is to be sent to the Middle East as an Aspect of English Life. We are expecting fan-mail from shieks, shahs and such-like.

*With acknowledgements to the news-sheet of Herts County Library (Editor: J. H. Jones) in which this article originally appeared.—Ed.*

## UP THE IRISH !

### *Council Notes—10th March*

This is the last time that I shall be writing these Council Notes, and so it gives me special pleasure to be able to report on a lively meeting.

At the January meeting the Policy Committee was abolished, and it was hoped that in consequence the agenda of Council itself would include more matters of substance for members to sharpen their wits on. Mr. Phillips wasn't present in January, and (perhaps to prove that he at least can make a meeting lively whatever its agenda) he started the meeting well by making a vigorous protest against the abolition. He pointed out that an apparently innocent meeting of three of the Officers over a glass of beer the previous evening was in reality a sinister unofficial policy committee meeting. However, Council sympathised with the need of the Officers for a drink, and Mr. Phillips protested alone.

He was more successful in rallying support when we turned to the report of the Press and Publications Committee. This committee had been considering the financial implications of its publishing programme—a programme committing the Association to an expenditure of several thousand pounds—and Mr. Phillips, who claimed that little birds were whispering to him of new publications (Pigeon Post?), thought that it was about time the committee also considered its publishing policy. There is considerable concern that the A.A.L. in order to raise money is obliged to publish certain books not directly related to the needs of students, and a small increase in income last year failed to remedy the situation. The ultimate profits from these books do subsidise the work of the Association considerably, but they require a heavy initial investment which it is very difficult to provide. It is hoped that some policy will be found of selecting manuscripts which are all directly related to the work of the Association without at the same time leading us into penury.

The report of the Education Committee included the news that copies of the recently compiled Minimum List of Essential Textbooks had been sent to all Chief Librarians. Plans were announced for the organisation of Divisional Residential Revision Schools to be subsidised nationally. Frank Atkinson was congratulated upon his editing of the excellent Examination Supplement in the March issue of the *Assistant Librarian*; the only member who wasn't satisfied was the one who wanted the supplements to come out before the examinations.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee announced a milestone in the history of the Association in the formation of a Division in Northern Ireland. Led by Mr. Davinson, who attended this meeting on their behalf, the members there had sent a formal petition to Council which was warmly received and approved. The Division is to be known as the Ulster Division and will cover Northern Ireland—a contradiction which the Committee regarded as typically Irish. Don Davinson was theoretically present just as an observer, but this didn't deter him from taking an active part in the afternoon's business. Godfrey Thompson was heard to remark that although he welcomed the Ulster Division, it would have been cheaper for the Association if Mr. Davinson had been elected to Council, rather than having to form a new division to get there.

And then the fireworks started. They were sparked off by the decision to make a small cut in the capitation paid to Divisions—a decision reached after long and careful consideration of the Association's financial position. Divisional representatives, led by those from Yorkshire, fought this decision at every point and proposed amendment after amendment, but all to no avail. Amongst suggestions were the reference back of the whole matter to a Special Committee, the preparation by the Honorary Treasurer of an estimate for the next three years, cutting the size or number of issues of the *Assistant Librarian*, and a reduction of the number of Council meetings each year. In the end the Honorary Treasurer survived bloody but unbowed and his recommendations were upheld.

Divisional representatives then reported further upon their efforts to persuade authorities to grant leave of absence with pay to assistants wishing to attend the L.A. Conference. When all the information is complete it is hoped to compile a full report for publication in the *Assistant Librarian*.

We turned next to an important matter of policy: the reorganisation of the Library Association. Members were presented with a memorandum outlining proposals likely to be considered by the L.A. Council; this was accompanied by another paper reprinting extracts from correspondence between the President and the Honorary Secretary in which differences of opinion on some of the issues involved were revealed. This correspondence—called by one member “a Nervo and Knox affair”—revolved mainly around the desirability or otherwise of a Public Libraries Section or its proposed alternative of special committees of the L.A. Council to deal with Public Library and Special Library matters. The President favoured a Public Libraries Section, but the Honorary Secretary was unconvinced that the profession wanted such a Section if an alternative way of satisfying special interests was available, and was concerned that the new Section would have an adverse affect upon the A.A.L. and its work. The whole question received full discussion and when put to the vote it was decided to change the Council's previous policy and to advocate the formation of a Public Libraries Section. Other decisions included support for the abolition of Branches and the setting up of Regional Co-ordinating Committees in their place.

Any other business produced more than its usual crop of items and included consideration of newspaper correspondence on Public Lending Rights, the policy of Islington Council to consider promotions which first receive the backing of the local branch of NALGO, and the deplorably low salaries paid to Scottish librarians.

The final item was an unusual one, but very fitting on this occasion. Mr. Duffner on behalf of all members thanked the President for his Chairmanship of the meeting. His handling of a series of very tricky debates well deserved this tribute.

In passing on the writing of these notes to my successor, I am perhaps giving him his most difficult task. I have tried—never very successfully\*—to make my accounts of these meetings readable and interesting, whilst always including all the more important decisions. This has naturally been more difficult if the meeting itself has lacked all sparkle. So I wish my successor not only the discovery of a successful formula for the writing of these notes, but also meetings which are well worth reporting.

JOHN H. JONES.

*\*These three words should have been censored; they are left in as witness of Mr. Jones' modesty and not as a statement of fact.—Ed.*

**H. KARNAC  
(BOOKS)  
LTD.**

58, GLOUCESTER RD.,  
LONDON, S.W.7.  
KNIGHTSBRIDGE 7908.

*New and Secondhand Books on  
all subjects.*

## Reviews

### B.P.R.

*American Book Publishing Record, Vol. 1, No. 1.*

*(for the month ending February 1st, 1960.) R. R. Bowker Company.*

The birth of a new national bibliography is always worth attention, and when it is the American National Bibliography (or so the publishers say) then the British librarian must sit up and take notice.

The new venture cumulates the entries from the Publisher's Weekly for the month, annotates them, adds the Library of Congress subject headings and the Dewey numbers, uses the form of entry established by L.C., arranges them in Dewey order and so produces something which is quite new to America. The Publisher's Weekly says that it is taking steps to see that all books which it lists reach L.C. as swiftly as possible so that they can appear in the cumulation.

The comparison with B.N.B. is rewarding to the bibliography student. Standing further back, we can see national as well as bibliographical characteristics. B.N.B. is official, neutralised if not nationalised; B.P.R. has a coverage basically similar to B.N.B., but is gathered by the book trade without benefit of national deposit, and to us the annotations seem puffy.

But this is a great step forward, and to offset the complacency which we feel over ten glorious years of B.N.B., we should not forget the apathy which left Harrod's Central Cataloguing Scheme to die the death, or those many Chief Librarians who sat at the kerbside until B.N.B. had gathered momentum. B.P.R. will mean a lot to British book selectors, and particularly to those who wish to make a swift subject search of current American publications. In hundreds of libraries it will soon take its place as one of the most used tools, and all librarians must salute a step forward in world bibliography.

GODFREY THOMPSON.

*Collison, R. L. Library Assistance to Readers. 3rd ed. 1960.  
Crosby Lockwood. 13s. 6d.*

"Assistance to Readers" as a subject for study is something of a hotchpotch, and nothing illustrates this more clearly than a random selection of the chapter headings of the present book—"Buildings and Departments," "The Lending Library," "Displays," "Guides to the Classification," "Publications," "Annotations," "Publicity," "Print and Production," "Library Service for Children," "Library Lectures," "Reference Material." The final heading in itself would seem to indicate the scope of an important separate examination paper. The problems of writing a book to cover the "Assistance to Readers" syllabus are many, and Mr. Collison quite rightly leaves the more detailed bibliographical side to other authors. (Students are in a more difficult position).

Most of the illustrations are new to the present edition, and the majority are of American libraries. There is an additional chapter on compiling a bibliography, and the chapter on library service for children has been rewritten. The rest of the book is very little changed, and the retention of the titles *Government Publications Consolidated List* (p. 106) and *Industrial Arts Index* (p. 116) implies that the revision could have been more carefully carried out.

A. L. SMYTH.

**A. M. HALDANE  
LTD.**

Although

**WE SPECIALISE IN  
CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

We also have a comprehensive stock of

**NON-FICTION  
FICTION**

**CHEAP FICTION  
REPRINTS**

**OVERSTOCKS  
REMAINDERS**

and will be happy to receive your requests and wants lists.

---

We have now instituted a new **URGENT SERVICE ;**  
**WHY NOT TRY IT ?**

---

You will always be assured of a warm welcome at our showrooms at

**5, DENMARK STREET,  
CHARING CROSS ROAD,  
W.C.2**

COVent Garden 0488

**THE  
HOLT-JACKSON  
BOOK COMPANY  
LIMITED**



*Public and County  
Library Booksellers*



**MONTAUBAN  
CHAMBERS,  
ST. ANNES-ON-SEA,  
LANCS.**

*Telephone: St. Annes 575*



*London Showrooms:*  
**59, BRITTON STREET,  
CLERKENWELL ROAD, E.C.1**  
*Telephone: Clerkenwell 3250*

# **WASTELL'S**

**Educational Supply Service**

**THE PUBLIC AND COUNTY  
LIBRARY BOOKSELLERS**

**806 HIGH ROAD, LONDON, N.17**

TOT 3354/5

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ESTABLISHED 1868

## **J. STARR & SONS, LTD.**

*Specialist Library Bookbinders*

**Dawber Street Works  
Wigan, Lanes.**

'Phone: 2 lines  
3484-5

'Grams: Starrs 3484  
Wigan

**One Quality only—The Best**

# HOLMES

## LIBRARY SERVICE

---

SUPPLIERS TO TOWN AND COUNTY, UNIVERSITY  
AND COLLEGE, AND INSTITUTIONAL LIBRARIES  
IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD

AGENTS FOR  
THE H. W. WILSON CO.'S LIBRARY  
AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL PUBLICATIONS  
AND FOR  
THE DEWEY DECIMAL CLASSIFICATION

---

**W. & R. HOLMES (Books) LIMITED**  
P.O. BOX No. 192  
3-11 DUNLOP STREET - GLASGOW

Set in Times Roman with Perpetua Headings and printed by  
KENTISH TIMES LTD., NORTH STREET, BROMLEY.

PAID 2